

## FIGHTING FOR LIFE

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at the very moment we got there,"  
said Ernest,  
" and our shots were not enough to  
frighten them  
off. And now nothing remains but  
-----"

" To defend ourselves ! " Captain  
Gould finished  
for him.

The ladies had just left their room. In  
antici-  
pation of an immediate attack they had  
to carry all  
the arms, ammunition and stores they  
could/ and  
get to the battery as quickly as  
possible.

The departure of the pirogues had  
been merely a  
ruse. Taking advantage of the incoming  
tide, the  
savages had returned towards  
Shark's Island,  
which they hoped- to take by  
surprise. The  
manoeuvre had been highly successful.  
Although  
their presence was known and they  
had been  
welcomed with guns, they were in  
occupation of  
the point, whence it would be easy for  
them to get  
to the central store.

The situation was thus desperate, for  
the pirogues  
had succeeded in landing the entire  
band \*L  
Zermatt and his companions could not  
offer a  
serious resistance to so large a number  
of assailants,  
That they must succumb when their  
^mmwmm  
and supplies ran out was only too  
certain,

, They could .do nothing but take refuge  
on **tibe**  
knoll, within the battery. That was the  
only \$\*«  
where there was any possibiEty of  
putting up \*-  
defence. , "  
The women and Bob crept osder  
cow\* m